

Amendments to the Claims

Please Cancel Claims 1 to 11 without prejudice.

12. (Currently amended) A method process for selecting an enantiomer of a chiral compound, comprising the steps of

(i) exposing a mixture of enantiomers of the compound to highly homogenous serum albumin for a period to allow selective binding of one enantiomer to the albumin; and

(ii) separating the relatively unbound enantiomer from the albumin.

13. (Currently amended) The method A process according to Claim 12 wherein the highly homogeneous serum albumin is immobilised.

14. (Currently amended) The method A process according to Claim 13 wherein the immobilised highly homogeneous serum albumin is immobilised on an enantioselective chromatography column ~~as defined in any one of Claims 8 to 10.~~

15. (Currently amended) The method A process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ ~~Claim 12 to 14~~ further comprising the step of separating the relatively bound enantiomer from the albumin.

In re application Bertucci and Felix
U.S. National Phase Application
Based on Intl. Application No. PCT/GB03/00119

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16. (Currently amended) The method A process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ ~~Claim 12 to 15~~ wherein the chiral compound is selected from an amino acid, an amino acid derivative, a sulfoxide, a sulfoxamine derivative, a racemic amine, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, an aryl propionate anti-inflammatory drug, an N-methylated barbiturate a benzodiazepine, a profen and a coumarin.

17. (Currently amended) The method A process according to ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim ~~12 to 16~~ wherein the chiral compound is selected from warfarin, warfarin metabolites such as 6- and 7-hydroxywarfarin and warfarin alcohols, lorazepam (e.g. lorazepam hemisuccinate), oxazepam, temazepam, N-benzoyl-DL-leucine, tryptophan, benzoin, eprisone, chlorphemramine, kynurenine, prilocaine, promethazine, donepezil and its salts (e.g. donepezil hydrochloride, sold under the trade name Asicept), thiopenfal, ibuprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, suprofen or fenoprofen and salts of these.

18. (Currently amended) A method process for increasing the purity of an agent that binds to albumin, comprising the steps of

(i) exposing a relatively impure preparation of the agent to an affinity chromatography column comprising, in the immobilised phase, highly homogeneous serum albumin, under conditions that favour the selective binding of the agent to the albumin;

(ii) removing unbound components of the relatively impure preparation of the agent; and

(iii) eluting the agent from the affinity chromatography column to obtain a preparation of the agent with increased purity.

19. (Currently amended) The method A process according to any one of Claims Claim 12 to 18 further comprising the step of formulating ~~a~~ the thus separated enantiomer or agent with increased purity with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, thereby to produce a pharmaceutical preparation.

20. (Currently amended) The method A process according to Claim 17 further comprising the step of presenting the pharmaceutical preparation in a unit dosage form.

21. (Currently amended) The A use, an enantioselective chromatography column, or a method process according to Claim 12 any one of the preceding claims wherein the highly homogeneous serum albumin is highly homogeneous human serum albumin.

22. (Currently amended) The A use, an enantioselective chromatography column, or a method process according to Claim 12 any one of the preceding claims wherein the highly homogeneous serum albumin is highly homogeneous recombinant serum albumin.

23. (Currently amended) An enantiomer of a chiral compound obtainable by a method according to ~~any one of~~ Claim 12 to 17.

24. (Currently amended) A ~~use, an enantioselective chromatography column, or a~~ method process substantially as described herein with reference to the examples.

25. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein the enantioselective chromatography column comprises an immobilised phase comprising highly homogeneous serum albumin.

26. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein the enantioselective chromatography column is used for HPLC.

27. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein the enantioselective chromatography column comprises highly homogeneous serum albumin immobilised on a silica matrix.